

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 184445 TOSEC 080135
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184445 TOSEC 080135

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT PRETORIA 3920 TO SECSTATE AUG 5

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3920

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SF RH

SUBJ: BOTHA'S AUGUST 4 TRIP TO SALISBURY

REF: PRETORIA 3912

1. I CALLED ON DFA SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE THIS AFTERNOON
TO SEE WHAT HE WOULD SAY ABOUT FONMIN BOTHA'S TRIP TO
SALISBURY YESTERDAY (AUGUST 4).

2. FOURIE STATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS PARTICULAR
VISIT WAS TO DETERMINE THE NATURE OF THE "DEVIATIONS"
SMITH KEPT TALKING ABOUT. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION IN
WHAT CONTEXT SMITH HAD EMPLOYED THE TERM, FOURIE SAID
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PAGE 02 STATE 184445 TOSEC 080135

HE COULD NOT RECALL WHETHER IT WAS PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR
CONVERSATIONS WITH US (I.E. SOUTH AFRICANS). IN ANY
EVENT, CONTINUED FOURIE, WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE SMITH
WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT MAJOR CHANGES IN THE FUNDAMENTALS
HE AGREED TO LAST SEPTEMBER. FOURIE SEEMED SATISFIED
WITH THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS ON THIS SCORE. HE SAID
THEY WANTED A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING BEFORE GOING TO

THE LONDON MEETING.

3. NOTING PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE MEETING REPORTING SMITH AS SAYING THE PURPOSE OF THE AUG 31 ELECTIONS IS TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A NEW CONSTITUTION BY THE END OF THE YEAR AND ELECTIONS BASED ON IT BY MARCH OF NEXT YEAR, I ASKED FOURIE WHETHER THE DISCUSSIONS HAD COVERED THIS ASPECT. HE DID NOT REPLY DIRECTLY. INSTEAD HE INDICATED THAT THE SAG STILL SUPPORTED THE ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORT AS AFFORDING THE PREFERRED SOLUTION, "BUT SHOULD IT FALTER, ONE MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO PUT IN ITS PLACE."

4. I ASKED FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF SMITH'S CHANCES OF WINNING AT LEAST 2/3 OF THE SEATS IN THE ELECTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT DEFECTIONS OF RF PARTY STALWARTS TONY SCRACE (A FOUNDING MEMBER AND ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF RF) AND MARK MCLEAN (EX-CABINET MEMBER), FOURIE DID NOT PLACE MUCH SIGNIFICANCE ON THESE. MCLEAN, HE SAID, HAD AN ACOHOL PROBLEM AND IS NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION. SCRACE HE PASSED OFF AS NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT.

5. COMMENT: FOURIE WAS AS USUALY CAUTIOUS IN HIS REMARKS. THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS, I THINK, TO REVIEW THE RHODESIAN SCENE WITH SMITH BEFORE BOTHA AND FOURIE LEAVE FOR THE LONDON TALKS. BOTHA AND FOURIE
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PAGE 03 STATE 184445 TOSEC 080135

ARE GOING TO WINDHOEK MONDAY (AUG 8) TO TALK TO THE TURNHALLE DELEGATES. THEY DEPART FOR LONDON ON THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY (AUG 10).

BOWDLER. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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